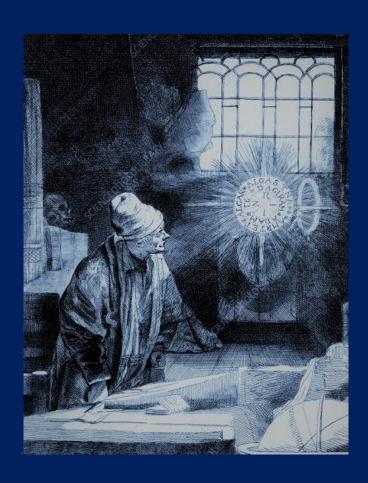
Fantasy: "Strange Philosophy"

for

solo hungarian concert cimbalom and orchestra



Glive Strutt

Cover Illustration: The etching on paper by Rembrandt is nicknamed 'Faust' and was created *c*.1652. Its exact subject is somewhat mysterious and puzzling. It depicts an elderly scholar (possibly an alchemist) in his study, transfixed by the apparition of a blazing disc of light enclosing a series of letters. The centre of the shining disc with the letters 'INRI' matches the Latin inscription placed over Christ's head on the cross so the scene could show an allegory of faith. The letters surrounding the central disc could have been intended to be indecipherable, thereby reminding the learned scholar that human knowledge is limited and ambiguous, in contrast to the clarity of divine wisdom.

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Historical Note Accompanying the Score

The score was composed and completed at 4.55 p.m. on 29th July 1971 at Dundas House, South Ronaldsay, Orkney. Revised and inked out at Aldershot, Hampshire, being completed at 4.33 p.m. on the 10th December 1972. The title derives from a quotation appearing on the score, taken from Christopher Marlowe's play "The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus" (Act 1, Scene 1, lines 85-6), — I'll have them read me strange philosophy, And tell the secrets of all foreign kings".

The orchestration is for cimbalom solo, plus small orchestra — double woodwind, 2 each horns and trumpets, timpani, percussion (3 players), pianoforte doubling celesta, two classical guitars (one doubling Hawaian guitar — because this was referred to in the score as a 'steel' guitar it was misinterpreted by the players as a Spanish guitar with steel strings; the composer actually meant Hawaian, but this was not used in the performance); strings.

It was recorded by RTÉ in Dublin on 16th September 1982 (for later broadcasting), with Derek Fleetwood Bell as soloist on the Hungarian cimbalom. The RTÉ Symphony Orchestra was conducted by Colman Pearce.

"I'll have them read me strange philosophy, And tell the secrets of all foreign kings."

['The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus']

by

Christopher Marlowe,

Act I, Scene 1, lines 85-86

Orchestral Specification

Flutes 1,2; oboe; English Horn; Clarinets in B flat 1,2; Bassoons 1,2;

French Horns in F 1,2; Trumpets in C1,2;

Timpani (1 player);

Percussion (1,2) - large tamtam, s-d, b-d, Susp. Cym (medium-soft mallet), wood-block, Guiro, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Glockenspiel, Tubular Bells;

Pianoforte d. Celesta; Harpsichord; Classical Guitars 1,2 (2 d. Hawaiian);

SOLO Hungarian Concert Cimbalom;

Strings.

